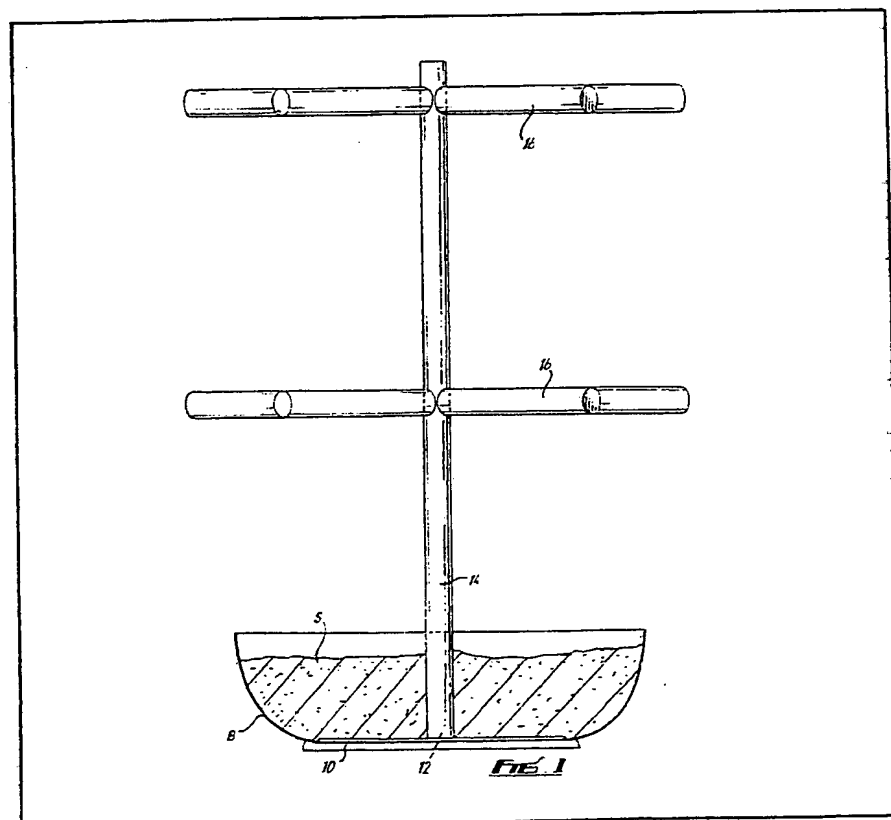


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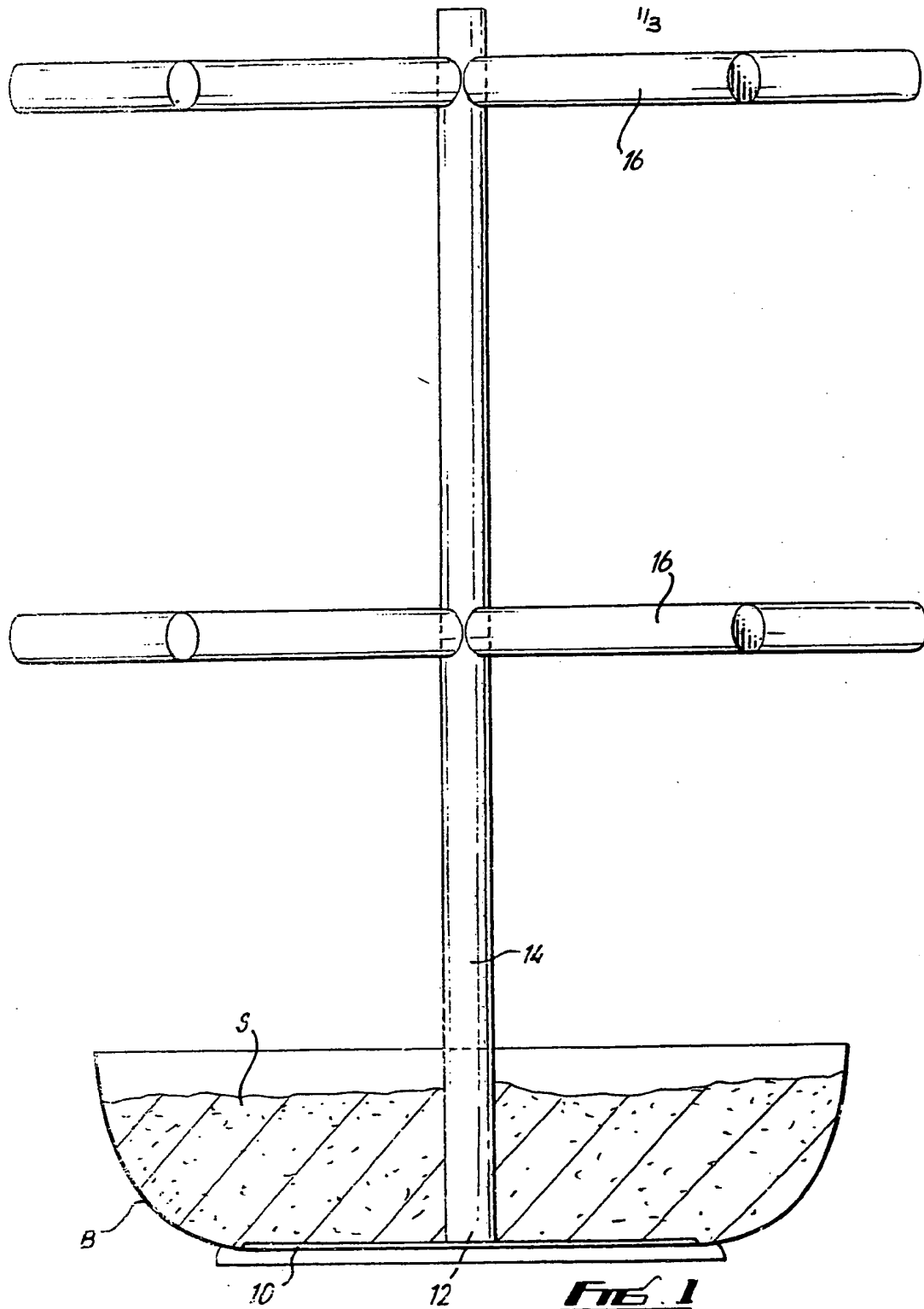
(54) Plant supports

(57) A plant support comprises a base arrangement 10 including a flat or spiral helix for retention in the medium in which the plant is growing, an upright 14 attached to the base arrangement and cross-pieces 16 on the upright.



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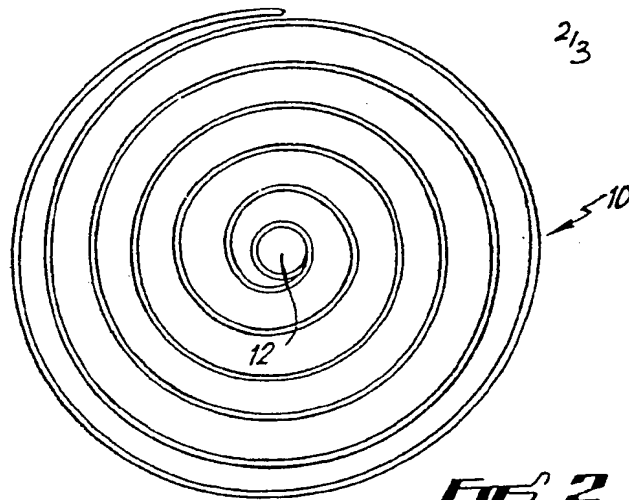


FIG. 2

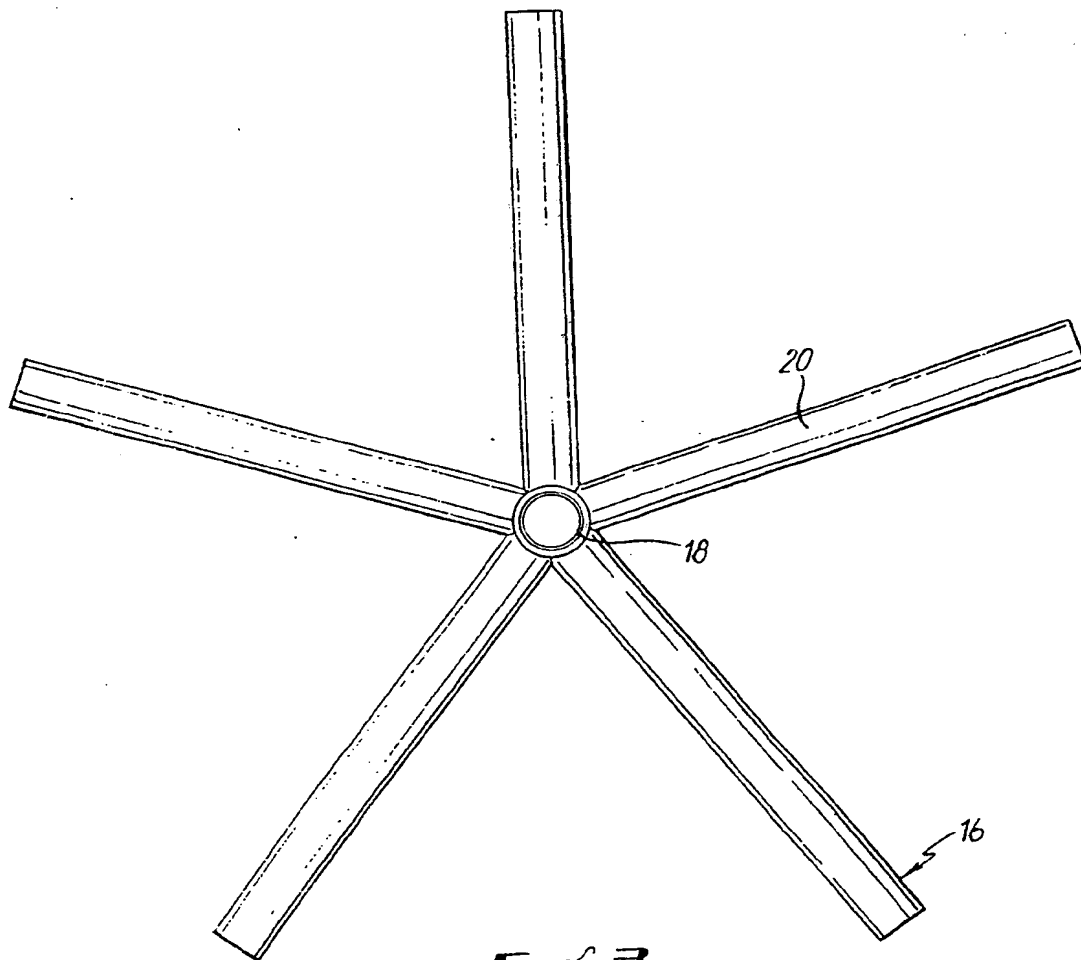


FIG. 3

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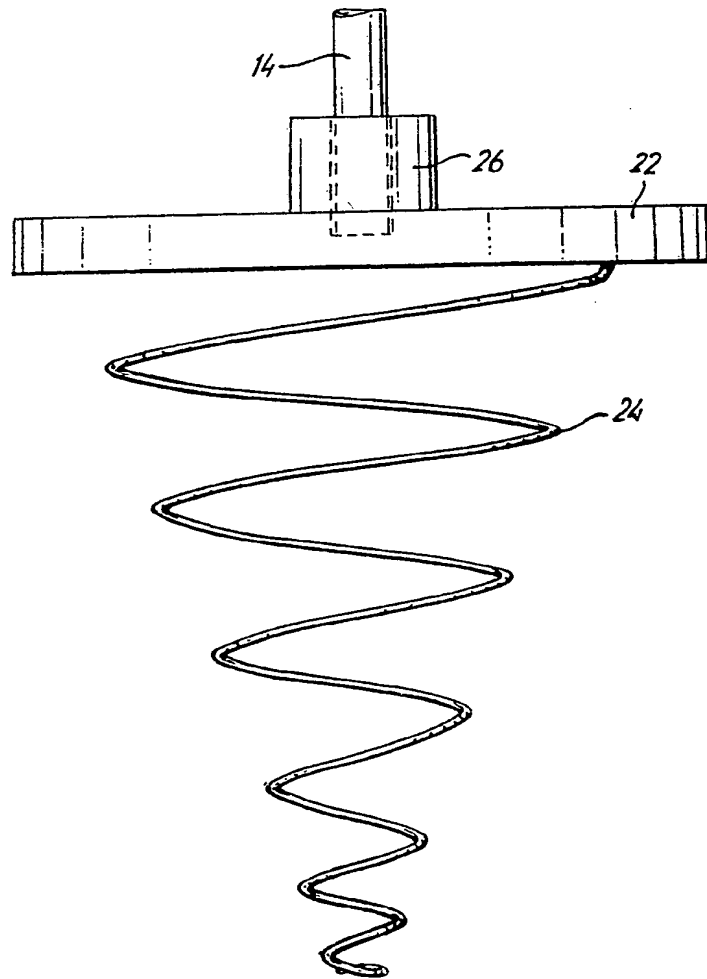


FIG. 4

SPECIFICATION

An improved plant support

5 The present invention concerns an improved plant support, especially but not exclusively for pot plants.

Certain pot plants, for example hyacinths, narcissi and ivies grown in soil or fibre in a pot or bowl, owing to their height often require support.

10 Certain supports are available ranging from a simple cane to a complicated lattice assembly. These prior supports are generally stuck into the soil or fibre in the bowl, this invariably resulting in a lack of rigidity. Further such supports are often designed for fully grown plants and consequently during the development stages of the plant the support predominates the appearance of the arrangement to the detriment of the growing plant.

15 It is an object of the present invention to obviate or mitigate these disadvantages.

20 According to the present invention there is provided a support including a base adapted to rest on the bottom of a plant container and, in use, to be covered by the contents of the container, an upright attached to said base and at least one cross-piece mounted on said upright.

25 Preferably said base is in the form of a spiral having a central hub to which said upright is removably attached. The spiral may be formed from wire coated by a plastics material or alternatively may be moulded from plastics material.

30 The upright may be manufactured in a plurality of interfitting parts such that its height is variable.

35 Preferably the cross-piece includes a central boss adapted for fitment around said upright and a plurality of arms projecting radially therefrom. The hub of the cross-piece is a sliding fit on the upright or, to provide a more positive engagement therewith, spring means may be incorporated in the boss.

40 An embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which

Fig. 1 shows a side elevation of a plant support arranged in a bowl;

45 Fig. 2 shows a plan of the base of the support;

Fig. 3 shows a plan of a cross-piece of the support and

Fig. 4 shows a partial side elevation of a plant support for use in a garden.

50 A plant bowl B contains soil or fibre S and is desired to provide a support for plants to be grown in said soil. Prior to filling the bowl B with soil S the base 10 of a plant support is placed on the bottom of the bowl. As can be seen from Fig. 2 the base is formed as a spiral in this embodiment from a plastics coated wire. Consequently its external diameter can be adjusted to conform with the diameter of the base of the bowl. The spiral extends from a central tubular hub 12 into which an upright 14 is removably fitted. The upright is preferably formed by a number of interfitting parts each approximately 4 inches in length the interfitment of parts being by way of spigot and socket arrangements on the adjacent ends of the parts, said arrangements not being illustrated in the drawings. It will be realised therefore

that the height of the upright can be increased as the plants in the bowl grow.

At least one cross-piece 16 is mounted on the upright the cross-piece, as illustrated in Fig. 3, comprising a central tubular boss 18 from which five arms of equal length project radially the angle between each pair of neighbouring arms being equal. Each arm may be removable from the boss and conveniently the fixing of arms to the boss may be achieved by a spigot and socket arrangement. The internal diameter of the boss is such that it is a sliding fit on the upright 14 such that the cross-piece can be moved to any position on the upright 14 and to assist in holding the cross-piece in position a clamping spring (not shown) may be incorporated in the boss.

80 Conveniently the support is coloured green and may be manufactured from plastics coated metal or exclusively from plastics.

85 In the modification shown in Fig. 4, which is intended for use in the garden, the spiral of the base 10, is attached to a plate 22 at its outermost point and rather than being flat is downwardly extended into a spiral helix 24 which can be "threaded" into the ground alongside a plant to be supported. The plate 22, on abutting the surface of the soil prevents further penetration of the helix 24 and provides a support or base for the plant support such that it is given lateral support. A boss 26 is formed on the upper face of the plate 22 into which the upright 14 can be fitted.

In Fig. 4 the helix illustrated is made from wire, has a maximum diameter of about 3 inches and has its end embedded in the base. This is intended for applications where the load on the support is not great. In other applications the wire helix is replaced by a more robust helix, for example of thick plastics coated wire, rigid plastics material. The helix could have its end embedded in the base or alternatively formed as part of the base.

105 With this robust embodiment the upright, as well as supporting plants, shrubs and saplings could be used as supports for netting covered frames for protecting soft fruit gardens. They can be readily taken up after the fruit has been picked.

110 Various modifications can be made without departing from the scope of the invention for example in the embodiment described with reference to Figs. 1 to 3 the base need not be formed as a spiral but could include a plurality of radially projecting deformable arms a plurality of concentric circles etc. Further the cross-piece could be formed with additional plant support means, for example concentric circles, wire ties etc.

120 CLAIMS

1. A plant support comprising a base arrangement adapted to be retained in position by the medium in which the plant is growing, an upright attached to said base and at least one cross-piece mounted on said upright, the base arrangement including a spiral adapted for engagement with the growing medium.

2. A plant support as claimed in claim 1, in which the spiral is arranged in one plane and is intended to be covered by growing medium.

3. A plant support as claimed in claim 1, in which the spiral takes the form of a helix extending downwardly from a base plate of said base arrangement, the plate incorporating a boss for reception of said upright.
- 5 4. A plant support as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the spiral is formed from wire coated by a plastics material.
- 10 5. A plant support as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, in which the spiral is formed by moulding from plastics material.
- 15 6. A plant support as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the upright is manufactured in a plurality of interfitting parts such that its height is variable.
- 20 7. A plant support as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the cross-piece includes a central boss adapted for fitment around said upright and a plurality of arms projecting radially therefrom.
8. A plant support as claimed in claim 7, in which the hub of the cross-piece is a sliding fit on the upright.
- 25 9. A plant support as claimed in claim 8, in which spring means are incorporated in the boss to provide for a more positive engagement between the boss and the upright.
10. A plant support substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 1 to 3 or Fig. 4 of the accompanying drawings.
- 30 11. Any novel subject matter or combination including novel subject matter herein disclosed, whether or not within the scope of or relating to the same invention as any of the preceding claims.

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